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Four suicide bombers identified



Soldiers patrol yesterday near Azira Shamalya, the home village of the four suicide bombers.

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The General Security Service has positively identified four of the five suicide bombers who blew themselves up in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market on July 30 and the Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall on September 4, killing 20 and wounding hundreds.

The four - Mouaya Jarara, 23, Bashar Zoualha, 24, Tawfik Yassin, 25, and Yusef Shouli, 23 - were all residents of Azira Shamalya, a village near Nabulus.

to determine the identity of the fifth suicide bomber. Final confirmation of the

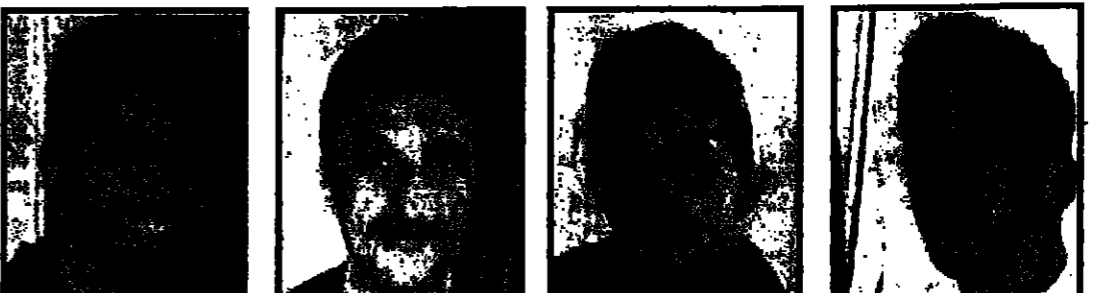
Ya'alon: Arafat could do more, Page 2

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bombers' identities was received by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night.

must never again rely on the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority to bestow security upon us. Had the PA done its part, the perpetrators in question would have been behind bars long ago and many innocent lives would have been spared.

"The GSS deserves full credit for a job well done. It functions well on its own and reliance on the Palestinians merely weakens it. If the PA should ever have a change of heart and begin cooperating in earnest to stamp out terrorism, that



The four identified suicide bombers (from left): Yusef Shouli, Mouaya Jarara, Tawfik Yassin, Bashar Zoualha. (Courtesy of GPO)

The village was put under curfew by the IDF last night.

Azira Shamalya, with a population of 7,000, is in Area B, which is under Israeli security control. However, security officials believe those who planned the bombings and assisted the terrorists reside in Area A, which is under total Palestinian control.

Security officials are still trying

"I want to praise the General Security Service, which together with the IDF, police, and the biology department of the Institute for Forensic Medicine revealed the identities of four of the five suicide bombers," said Netanyahu.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said last night that, "if the GSS's successful investigation proves anything, it is how we

would be an added bonus, but there must never again be any form of dependence on them, as there unfortunately had been previously."

Meanwhile, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide Mahmoud Abbas blamed Israel last night for purposely misleading the Palestinians.

See BOMBERS, Page 2

Naveh denies Israel proposed halting Har Homa project

By NILIEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, the Prime Minister's advisor Uzi Arad and Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, the ambassador to the US, presented American officials yesterday with what Naveh said was proof that four of this summer's Jerusalem suicide bombers came from areas under Palestinian Authority control.

The three met with US special Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, in what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last week called the next step in attempting to restart the peace process, following her recent visit to the region.

Palestinian negotiators are due to meet with Ross later this week.

Following the Israelis' three-hour meeting with Ross, Naveh told reporters that contrary to reports, Israel was not proposing a halt to settlement building in Har Homa or elsewhere as part of a package to get talks resumed.

Israel also did not suggest combining the three scheduled IDF redeployments, he said.

Naveh said that the four suicide bombers were on a list of 88 suspects that Israel turned over to the PA several months ago asking that they be detained.

Naveh said that relations with the Palestinians have deteriorated in recent days because the PA has released "dozens" of imprisoned terror suspects since Albright returned to the US. He called it a "clear example of the lack of effort by the PA in terms of fighting terrorism."

Israel is prepared to progress in the peace process, but first must see the PA address its security obligations, Naveh said.

"The main thing that is prevent-

1/3 of frozen meat samples found to have excessive bacteria - survey

By JUDY SEGEL

The Israel Consumer Council, which found excessive bacteria in four of 12 random samples of frozen processed meat, yesterday called for the establishment of a state food authority to coordinate supervision and standards.

The unappetizing findings were "not a representative sample" of all the country's meat supplies, said ICC director Ariella Ravdel. But she said they did raise concern about food hygiene in processing plants.

At a news conference called by the ICC and the Israel Veterinary Association yesterday, both organizations said that in the past year, 308 retail stores were checked for hygiene and product quality. Of these, 202 received a "Green Tag," denoting high quality standards.

Taking part in the meeting were representatives of four chains - Co-Op Blue Square; Co-Op North-Hyperstok; Supersol/Hypercol; and MacDonald's - many of whose branches have already received the Green Tag.

Ravdel said the ICC decided to launch the Green Tag campaign after receiving many complaints about the quality of meat products in various parts of the country. She said the problem was partly due to meat being sold from animals that died from disease instead of supervised slaughter.

Ravdel also cautioned consumers to purchase meat only from recognized sources.

Dr. Yisrael Glass, head of the veterinary association, said that three of the 12 samples tested in the Health Ministry's veterinary labs were found to have high levels of bacteria, including some that cause gastrointestinal disorders and food poisoning.

The bacteria are most dangerous to infants, toddlers, the elderly and people with chronic diseases; some of the bacteria release toxins that remain pathogenic even after cooking.

"The source of the bacteria could be in the manufacturing process, from infections on the hands or in the throats of food workers, or from improper transport or storage of frozen meat," Glass added.

The four samples with bacteria counts higher than permitted were processed by Pikanti, Tak-Toro and Tiv Ta'am, other products by Pikanti and Tak-Toro, as well as from Tochelet, Tibonaveal and International Food, did not exceed permitted rates of bacteria. Representatives of Tak-Toro and Tiv Ta'am charged tests showing excessive bacterial levels were "misleading and insufficient."

Health Ministry Food Service Division director Dr. Brian Coussin said that all raw meat has bacteria and that it must be well-cooked to kill the bacteria.

He added that well-cooked meat should be safe if purchased from reputable companies in reliable retail outlets. Dr. Herbert Singer, head of the Food Service Division's veterinary unit, said most Western countries do not have bacterial standards for raw meat products. The greatest danger, he said, was pathogenic bacteria from raw meat getting into contact with cooked meat in the home or in restaurants.

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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Doing it our way

The recent IDF actions in the village near Nablus where the Jerusalem suicide bombers allegedly originated are the type of actions the security services have been taking for years. A village is surrounded, a closure declared, suspects rounded up, interrogated and arrested.

These are scenes the country became well acquainted with during the intifada, when Israel was the sole sovereign in the West Bank. But even since the signing of the Oslo Accords, and the division of the West Bank into a patchwork of zones under Israeli, Palestinian and joint control, the IDF has initiated similar types of actions to crush the Hamas infrastructure.

What is different this time, said Oren Shahor, former government coordinator in the territories, is that these acts ought now to be taken in coordination with the Palestinian Authority but are not. Shahor said that when Israel acted in Area B in the past, it was done after consultation with the Palestinian Authority. In some cases Israel provided the intelligence information, and the Palestinian police made the arrests.

Area B refers to the rural areas in the West Bank where Palestinians have civilian authority, but Israel has the overriding security authority and can enter as it pleases. But now, since there is no military or intelligence cooperation with the Palestinian

Authority, the security services are acting alone, Shahor said. "I see what is happening not so much as a turning point, as much as it is a reflection of the reality on the ground," Shahor said. "There is no dialogue, neither security nor intelligence cooperation. But the security services still have to provide security. So in the absence of coordination, they are doing it on their own." The Palestinian Authority, Shahor said, is likely to understand from these actions that Israel will do what it feels it has to, with or without them.

"It would be preferable to do it together, because their intelligence is very good," Shahor said. "They are there, inside Area A [the areas under total Palestinian control], we are not." But the recent moves shows that even if there is no cooperation, Israel will act.

Shahor said he does not think the recent moves are a prelude to an IDF incursion into Area A. "Both sides," he said, "understand that this would lead to a collapse of the agreements." As far as the Palestinians are concerned, said Hadash MK Hashem Mahameed, the action near Nablus, and the massive IDF presence in the areas, is tantamount to "a renewed occupation." "The Palestinians see this as an affront," he said. "Once again there are soldiers everywhere, and curfews and arrests. It is happening at a time where there is no safe passage from Jericho to Gaza, no port, no airport. It's as if the military administra-

tion is back." Mahameed said that when the IDF goes into Area B with such force, without coordination with the PA, it is interpreted by Palestinians as "a provocation, and as an affront to the PA. The significance is re-occupation. Now people are seeing more army, not less." Mahameed said that such moves only increase the frustration of the Palestinians and undermine their support for the PA, since they see it as impotent.

Arguments that the recent moves are meant to crush the terror infrastructure which Yasser Arafat has failed to do, fall — at least in Mahameed's case — on deaf ears.

"How can Arafat crush the infrastructure," Mahameed says, "if he only has control of a small percentage of the territory." The premise to Mahameed's argument is that Arafat is doing what he can in the areas he controls — a premise that the head of military intelligence Moshe Ya'alon yesterday told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee was fanciful.



Ras al-Amud protest

Border policemen stand guard yesterday as some 200 Palestinian high school pupils protest at the Moskowitz property in Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud area. The pupils chanted 'Uprising forever' and 'Arafat, we'll be martyrs if you want us to be,' and shouted for the yeshiva students to leave. They threw stones at police and attempted to block the road with overturned garbage cans, until police dispersed them with tear gas. No injuries or arrests were reported.

(This: Eilat Weizel/Keizer, Photo: Reuters)

Mordechai warns Lebanese Army: Don't shoot at IDF

By DAVID RUDGE and BATSHEVA TSUR

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai warned yesterday that fire would be returned at the Lebanese Army, if its soldiers shoot at the IDF.

On a visit to front-line troops in the security zone, Mordechai said that "in those incidents in which the Lebanese Army opens fire at our forces, on the ground, in the air or at sea, it will be fired upon."

"Therefore I warn the Lebanese Army not to participate in the activities that are taking place in Lebanon," Mordechai said.

According to the army's intelligence chief, OC Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, the Lebanese Army has begun opening ground fire at IDF and SLA forces during the latest clashes in south Lebanon. He told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Lebanese Army forces have also been directing anti-aircraft fire at Israeli planes.

Accompanied by Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak, OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine, and the IDF's commander in Lebanon Brig. Gen. Eli Amital, Mordechai also met with South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and SLA officers.

On a visit to the IDF's Ishiyeh position in the eastern sector, Mordechai reiterated the importance of the security zone and the need for the IDF's presence there.

He told reporters he was not aware of any concrete steps to resume talks between Israel and Syria, but that such moves would be welcome once the Syrians agreed to discuss the issues on the agenda.

Mordechai said negotiations were continuing through the International Red Cross over the return of the body of Third Petty Officer Itamar Ilya, who was killed in the botched naval commando raid deep inside Lebanon on September 5.

During Mordechai's visit to the zone, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with mortars and

light weapons at IDF troops in the eastern sector. There were no casualties and IDF gunners returned fire.

Afterwards, Mordechai visited IDF troops on the Mt. Hermon "snow" position to review the state of readiness in the area.

"In parallel to the efforts we are making to resume talks with Syria and try to reach a peace accord, it is essential for IDF forces to maintain a high state of alert and readiness in general and in the Hermon area in particular," said Mordechai.

In the afternoon, Mordechai visited Mughar village in lower Galilee, to see the family of field doctor Maj. Maher Daghsh, who was killed in the aborted naval raid.

Daghsh, 26, was part of a rescue unit sent to the scene. He was killed while trying to treat the casualties.

"We have no alternative but to extend the hand of peace, which we are doing everyday to the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Palestinians. We want to achieve peace, but we also want to achieve life and security for all of us — all residents of Israel," Mordechai said.

In his briefing to the Knesset committee, Ya'alon also said that Hizbullah was following the internal debate in Israel over calls for a withdrawal from Lebanon. He added that despite the latest clashes, the guerrillas weren't changing their tactics or commitments to the Grapes of Wrath agreements.

He said that Syria was not interested, at this stage, in a unilateral Israeli withdrawal because this would be perceived as a Hizbullah victory.

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Poll: Ethiopian immigrants want greater integration

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

About 90 percent of Ethiopian Jewish immigrants who graduated from state religious high schools would be willing for their children to intermarry with other Israelis, a survey conducted for the Education Ministry shows.

The survey, released yesterday, covered a random sample of 120 graduates of five years ago. Most had immigrated in the mid-1980's as part of Operation Moses.

Dr. Shalva Weill, senior researcher at Hebrew University's National Council of Jewish Women Research Institute for Innovation in Education, said the data indicates a strong desire among Ethiopians to integrate into Israeli society.

"I hope that the policy makers and particularly the Ministry of Education will be able to learn from the research and improve the education they give to Ethiopian Jews," she said.

The findings included the following:

- 84% completed 12th grade, as opposed to 72% in the general population, indicating a low dropout level among Ethiopians.
- Only 15% said they earned matriculation certificates, as opposed to 30% in the overall population.
- 52% were satisfied with their education, while 27% were not.
- Half complained about the curriculum's absence of material on Ethiopian life.
- 56% have served in the IDF.
- All had married other Ethiopians, except for one woman who

married a member of the Bnei Israel community from India.

Half said however, that they would have been willing to marry other Israelis. Almost all said they would be willing for their children to intermarry with other Israelis.

• A third are unemployed, while more than half work as skilled or unskilled laborers.

• 41% including some married couples, live with parents, and only 18.5% have their own apartments.

• 59% reported they had not visited a non-Ethiopian Israeli friend in their last year of school.

• 81% rejected the suggestion that any neighbors disliked them because of their skin color, while 19.5% reported experiencing incidents of discrimination.

From a mainstream religious viewpoint, the graduates became more secular, with 68% not traveling on Shabbat as compared to 84% while at school.

But the graduates remained more loyal to Ethiopian customs such as eating cold food on Shabbat and not eating yogurt on Passover.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said yesterday that priority would continue to be given to closing gaps between Ethiopian and other Israeli pupils.

He said that NIS 34 million were being invested toward this goal. Some 17,000 Ethiopian pupils receive special assistance, and Amharic language textbooks are being prepared.

Dozens of needy Ethiopian families recently received personal computers, a ministry spokesman said.



Food for the needy

With the approach of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, volunteers for Ilah, an Israeli organization that helps the handicapped, and Equilibr, a volunteer group founded in France, hand out packages of staples such as flour, sugar and rice to the elderly and handicapped yesterday in the Katamon section of Jerusalem.

(Byron McBarney)

Stolen Torah scrolls held in Jordan

Samaritans told to pay \$1m. ransom

HAIM SHAPIRO

Two members of the Nablus Samaritan community have seen Torah manuscripts stolen from their synagogue for ransom two and a half years ago, in a home in Amman.

The dramatic story began in March 1995 when early morning worshippers arrived for prayers, only to find that the synagogue had been broken into and the two Torah manuscripts, one in the form of a scroll, the other a bound codex, missing. Members of the community contacted both the Israeli and Palestinian Authority security forces to no avail.

Samaritans hold the Torah, but no other part of the Bible, sacred. They number under 600 in Nablus, near Mount Gerizim, and in Holon.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat succeeded in getting the thieves to reduce their demand from \$7 million to \$2 million and learned that the manuscripts had been smuggled into Jordan, where a member of the Nablus Samaritan community was allowed to view them briefly in the back seat of a car.

Last month, Shalom, the son of the Samaritan High Priest, was allowed to view the scroll and manuscript in a home in Amman. The

thieves also told the Samaritans that they were lowering the ransom demand to \$1 million.

Shalom, son of the High Priest Anram Hachoben, who holds the seat reserved for a Samaritan on the Palestinian legislative council, told the Samaritan bi-monthly AB that he was contacted by the thieves in his hotel room. Together with another non-Samaritan member of the council he was taken to a home somewhere in Amman.

A masked man led them to a room, told them to sit down and left. A few minutes later he re-entered the room and put down a small suitcase between the two. Only a few minutes later when the masked man again came in and told them to open the suitcase did they dare to do so.

They opened the case to find the two manuscripts intact, although a few pieces of parchment had broken off from the scroll and were lying in the bottom of the suitcase. After half an hour, the masked man again appeared, shut the suitcase and took it away.

The next day, the two reported the incident to the Jordanian security forces, who told them that the Jordanian police had not ceased their own efforts to recover the manuscripts for the Samaritans.

Campaign under way to give Israel seat on UN Security Council

By MARILYN HENRY

"Why is it that [Iran, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria], all cited by the US State Department as sponsors of terrorism, are eligible to serve rotating terms on the Security Council, yet Israel, a democratic nation and member of the UN since 1950, is not?" asked an advertisement sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, appearing in national and international newspapers yesterday.

As the 52nd General Assembly opens this week the ad urges an end to discrimination against Israel at the UN.

Israel is excluded from a seat on the Security Council and other key UN bodies because it is not a member of one of the regional groups through which the rotating candidates for these councils are

chosen. Israel has been seeking temporary admission to the "Western European and Others" geographical group until it is able to become part of its natural regional bloc, the Arab Group.

The full-page ad appeared in *The New York Times* as government leaders from more than 160 nations were in Manhattan for the opening of the UN assembly. Foreign Minister David Levy is scheduled to address the assembly next Monday. The ad features two vertical columns. One column, titled "Countries eligible to sit on the United Nations Security Council," lists 184 member states, including Iran, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria, all cited as sponsors of terrorism by the State Department. The second column — "Countries not eligible to sit on the United Nations Security Council" — lists one state, Israel.

Four arrested in health fund scam

By JUDY SEGEL

Acre police have arrested four sales agents contracted by Kupat Holim Leumit on suspicion of having transferred thousands of Kupat Holim Clalit members to Leumit without the members' permission, a Clalit spokeswoman said yesterday.

The four, including three women and a man from Nazareth and Magar, are accused of calling people and introducing themselves as staff of the Central Bureau of Statistics or the National Insurance Institute.

They would allegedly ask for identity card numbers and other personal details and use them to fill out forms to transfer the person's membership to Leumit, without their knowledge.

The suspects, whose names weren't given, were arrested Monday night and brought yesterday before the magistrates' court, which extended their detention for another 24 hours.

The four were allegedly hired by

Kupat Holim Leumit to try to attract new members to the fund, but they weren't authorized to resort to such means.

Clalit officials said they would ask the NII not to honor the forms it receives through the end of October for transferring members to Leumit, until the matter is sorted out.

The fund also plans to publish advertisements warning members about such tricks.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza is in the process of amending a law that would make such fraud impossible by requiring anyone who wants to change health fund membership to file a form at a post office.

The change is expected to go into effect on January 1. In the meantime health funds are actively competing with one another, with some funds offering cash prizes and coupons to try and win new members. Millions of shekels have been spent on such incentives in the last two and a half years.

IMA boycotts government

By JUDY SEGEL

The Israel Medical Association decided at an emergency meeting yesterday to sever contact with government offices until an agreement is honored adding doctors' positions at public hospitals.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar accused the government of creating "a lack of confidence" by renegeing on the agreement signed last March, which called for adding 360 jobs to public hospitals over the next four years. As a result of the IMA's deci-

sion, doctors will not participate in any forums with the Health and Finance Ministries, including national advisory councils that counsel the health minister on professional matters, quality-control committees and bodies that help prepare legislation.

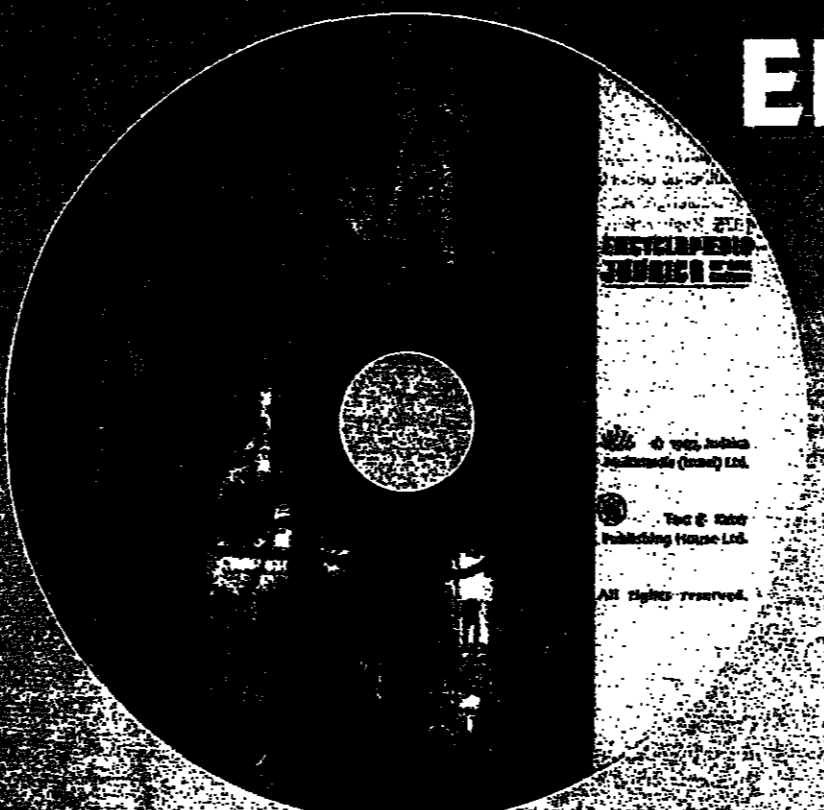
Meanwhile, the cabinet will hold a special meeting on the health system funding crisis at 11 a.m. today. Yesterday's sanctions, which canceled non-emergency operations in the center of the country, will not be repeated anywhere today. However, the IMA said sanctions will resume next Sunday through Tuesday.

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Unionists, Sinn Fein meet for the first time since 1921

BELFAST - Two of Northern Ireland's most implacable opponents faced each other over a negotiating table for the first time yesterday in a meeting Britain hopes will prepare the way for all-party talks.

The only business on the day's agenda, however, was the Ulster Unionist Party's demand that the Sinn Fein Party be thrown out of the talks, because of its links to the Irish Republican Army.

"The men of violence have no place at the table of democracy," Ulster Unionist lawmaker Ken Maginnis told reporters after the session.

Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, the senior British official in the province, will have to decide whether to accept or reject the unionist challenge to Sinn Fein's participation in the talks. The government, however, has gone to great lengths to draw Sinn Fein into the process and to keep the Ulster Unionists involved as well.

David Trimble, leader of Ulster Unionists, cited the Irish Republican Army's publicly expressed "problems" with the basic tenets of the talks - the Mitchell Principles of non-violence.

He stressed that his party "was not in direct contact with Sinn Fein" at the meeting. But the Ulster Unionists also said they would remain in the multi-party talks even if they failed to get Sinn Fein ejected.

"We will be there again and again and again - until they are sick of the sight of us - to confront the evil of the IRA," Maginnis said before the meeting.

Mowlam said she was hoping for progress. "This afternoon we will have round the table loyalists, republicans, nationalists, and unionists," she said.

"We aim to move forward towards substantive negotiations as soon as possible, and today's another step in that direction," John



Ulster Unionist David Trimble (left) leaves the Stormont peace talks yesterday with fellow unionist member Ken Maginnis (center), after meeting with Sinn Fein. (AP)

Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, Sinn Fein's moderate rival for Catholic votes, said he believes Sinn Fein is genuinely committed to the peace process.

"We have got to the stage now where all the major parties are here. No one could have forecast that a few years ago," he said. "Now let's get down to sorting out our differences." Arriving with Adams for the talks, Sinn Fein negotiator Lucilia Breatnach said the Ulster Unionist attack was a "distraction," but she

welcomed Trimble's presence in the negotiating room.

"The real interest is whether David Trimble is prepared to move into real peace talks," she said.

Although Adams and Trimble have never exchanged a word, Ulster Unionist Party colleagues have sat down with Adams and other Sinn Fein leaders.

Ken Maginnis has taken part in an American TV debate with Adams, and a few weeks ago he debated with Sinn Fein chief negotiator Martin McGuinness in Belfast.

Despite his efforts to get Sinn Fein ejected, Trimble has called on Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and United Kingdom Unionist Robert McCartney - who are boycotting the talks because of Sinn Fein's presence - to rejoin the talks to maintain a strong Protestant presence.

Sinn Fein had been barred from the talks, which started in June 1996, because of continuing IRA violence. An earlier IRA cease-fire ended in February 1996 with a bomb blast in east London.

So far, Protestant paramilitaries

have been officially abiding by their own cease-fire.

The Ulster Unionists have blamed the IRA for the bombing of a police station in the town of Markethill, 55 kms southwest of Belfast a week ago. An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the little-known splinter group Continuity Army Council claimed responsibility for the blast, in which no one was injured.

Paisley said yesterday the Ulster Unionists were endangering Northern Ireland's place within the union by talking to Sinn Fein. (AP)

The philosopher king returns to Israel

"Hope is definitely not the same as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

Vaclav Havel may be one of the most quoted presidents on earth. He certainly is one of the few worth listening to. In the world of the mighty sound bite - with all the intellectual satisfaction of its close relative the burger bite - Havel is one of the world's few leaders whose speeches remain an event that command rapt attention.

It is not just the drawing power of an excellent writer turned politician. It is the drawing power of a man who has had to live the words he has written, and whose words have changed the history of his nation.

Vaclav Havel sitting over a beer outside the Cafe Atara on Ben Yehuda Street yesterday was not just another visiting politician making a gesture on camera with minimum risk. Havel has that solid authority about him that makes people believe he would not be moved if a terrorist walked right up to him.

"If you want to have peace, you have to have courage," said Havel. It means something - coming from a man who sat in jail for principles, whose personality inspired a nation to velvet revolution for freedom, and who presided over the sad but peaceful division of his country into two states.

Haunted
A country sometimes does raise a person seemingly predestined to lead his people through fateful moments. As the British found Winston Churchill, so Czechoslovakia found Vaclav Havel and raised him from a prison cell to Hradcany Castle presidential suite almost overnight.

But there was a moment in July 1992, when the victory of the petty over the ideal seemed to step out of one of Havel's own plays. Havel the velvet revolutionary was pelted by the president's re-election to the presidency by his own parliament - the Slovak deputies still there voted against him.

It was an ironic return of "long-forgotten history coming back to haunt us," that he himself had written about. It was a reminder of the prophet rejected by his own - there would have been no free democratic Czechoslovakia to be split freely and democratically into Slovakia and the Czech Republic without Havel's guiding light.

Costly bouquet
Havel had been hailed in the West as a true philosopher-king straight out of Plato, a leader of whom not only his country but the free world should be proud. Possessed of a self-mocking humor, he is the modest, easy-going type

people find it impossible to dislike. So it was with some sad disbelief that he said of a visit to the Slovak capital, Bratislava at that time: "A lady gave me a bouquet of flowers and she was beaten in the street for doing so."

It was long ago observed that Havel's plays are steeped in the absurd because, so often in his life, he has found himself living it. A clue to his fierce adherence to dissent for 22 years can be found in his writing about Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

"Why was Solzhenitsyn driven out of his country?" Havel asked in *The Power of the Powerless*. "Certainly not because he represented a unit of

real power. His expulsion was something else: a desperate attempt to plug up the dreadful wellspring of truth."

Havel speaks a language we no longer hear from national leaders - thoughtful, visionary, perceptive. Hardly surprising from one whose early volume of satirical verses, *Anticodes*, mocked accepted political language. "There is no doubt that distrust of words is less harmful than unwarranted trust in them," he warned after becoming an elected politician. Havel must have been the one least surprised to fall victim to eastern Europe's new nationalist absurdities. At least it wasn't a vile Bosnian absurdity.

Kibbutz Masaryk
Havel came first to Israel in 1990, as the European Communism collapsed, "to correct an historic wrong." Part of the attraction Israel had for Havel was his mission to wipe out the Stalinist view of history. He spoke of the 1,000-year history of the Jewish community in Czechoslovakia. He did not shy away from the role of anti-Semitism in that past; yet he also recalled that his country was one of the few that stood by the infant State of Israel in 1948.

The most moving moment occurred at the end of his visit to Kibbutz Masaryk, named after the first Czechoslovak president who came to Israel in 1927. As the Modus Brass Quintet played the Czechoslovak national anthem, the audience softly began singing the words.

It was an emotive echo of the Velvet Revolution, of the romantic scenes of joyous flag-wavers in Wenceslas Square, weeping and singing at the birth of freedom while a chanted idec fixe was tossed from group to group: "Havel to the Castle. Havel to the Castle."

The deputy director-general of the foreign ministry at the time, Yosef Govrin, deftly caught the spirit of Havel's visit. "This is not a visit for signing agreements," he said. "Its importance is that such a man is here."

It still is so.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

New Russia-NATO forum to meet this week in NY

By TIMOTHY HERTAGUE

MOSCOW - Russia, still wary of NATO despite a new security agreement, is looking to the defense alliance to prove its commitment to their new partnership at talks scheduled to begin in New York this week.

The first full meeting on Friday of the Joint Permanent Council, created under the agreement signed by NATO and Russia last May in Paris, is seen in Moscow as a test of how far NATO is ready to go to create a genuine partnership.

"This meeting will set the pattern for all the following meetings," said Andrei Piontkovsky, head of Moscow's Centre for Strategic Studies.

"Whether the Paris agreement is followed by anything serious or not depends very much on the policies shown at the Joint Permanent Council." The Founding Act signed in Paris was hailed as the start of a new era in relations between the former Cold War enemies.

It was intended partly to ease

Moscow's fears over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastward expansion, a process which began when NATO offered membership to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary at a summit of the alliance in Madrid in July.

Under the Founding Act, Russia was offered a say but not a veto in some NATO affairs through the creation of the Joint Permanent Council, presided over by three officials, two of whom represent NATO and one Russia.

Friday's meeting, the council's first full talks at the level of foreign ministers, will focus on issues such as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and peace-keeping operations.

Russia will be represented by Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Just as important for Russia will be the agenda agreed for future meetings and how much NATO is ready to take into consideration Moscow's views.

"There is a feeling in Moscow that NATO may try to limit coop-

eration to certain areas and not to let Russia influence decisions too much," said Alexei Pushkov, a foreign affairs commentator for the weekly *Moscow News* newspaper.

"The fulfillment of the Paris agreement depends much more on NATO than Russia. If Russia gets no significant influence in the work NATO does, if it gets little out of the Paris agreement, NATO expansion could become a burning issue here again." Anti-NATO rhetoric has eased in Moscow, but not died.

The opposition communists and nationalists have not been fully reconciled to cooperation with NATO and mistrust remains.

Some nationalists have been regularly demonstrating outside the embassies of NATO member states in Moscow.

Military exercises involving NATO and non-member Ukraine in the Black Sea this summer did nothing to improve the atmosphere and highlighted Russia's sensitivity to the alliance's overtures to former Soviet republics.

(Reuters)

US, Russia okay plutonium ban

MOSCOW - The United States and Russia signed an agreement yesterday aimed at halting the production of weapons-grade plutonium, US Vice President Al Gore said.

"After much hard work we took an important, perhaps even historic step this week when we reached an agreement to halt the production of weapons-grade plutonium in both the United States and Russia," Gore told reporters after meeting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Under the deal Russia undertook to convert with US assistance its three plutonium production reactors to civilian use by the year 2000 and promised not to restart another 10 such reactors already shut.

Washington promised not to restart its 14 plutonium production reactors shut down by 1989. The sides agreed on a monitoring regime to ensure that the agreement is not violated.

"By ending the production of plutonium at these sites the agreement makes a major contribution to the advancement of our non-proliferation interests," Gore said.

Halting the production of such

material is seen as the next priority in the nuclear field now that Russia and the US are edging towards cuts in strategic arsenals. In July Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered the creation of a working group to report on what to do with weapons-grade plutonium by October 15.

Western governments have been concerned since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 that nuclear materials could be stolen in the former East bloc, putting atomic bombs within reach of non-nuclear states.

The world's main disarmament forum, the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament, ended its 1997 session earlier this month with little progress, including on the production of weapons-grade fissile material like plutonium and highly-enriched uranium.

The two countries did not agree, however, on Russia's commitments to Iran to build a nuclear power plant, which has alarmed the US.

"It is obvious that there is a vigorous effort by Iran to obtain the technologies it needs to build a ballistic missile and to build nuclear weapons," Gore said. (Reuters)

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ALEPH TO TAV



'Something' and 'nothing' - where fantasy and reality combine.

Adults can learn from children

By RUTH BLUM

SHUM DAVAR ("Nothing at All") by Mirik Snir. Illustrated by Elyor Snir. Hakibutz Hamenhad Publishing House, Ltd. 1997. NIS 35.90. Pages not numbered. Target age: 3-5.

Mother of nine and special education teacher Mirik Snir is not merely aware of the blurring of fantasy and reality in children's minds. This prolific children's author skillfully pays tribute to this quality.

Shum Davar is the story of a child who finds "something" on his way home. As he continues he meets up with a frog, then with a mouse, then with a fly, a snake, a lion, and finally with a man. The boy offers each a peek into his cupped hands, asking if they know what he's caught.

Each animal gives a different answer. The frog says it's a "Kwa Kwa" (Hebrew connoting a frog's noise); the mouse thinks it's a "tzeetz tzeetz"; the fly calls it a

serve to soothe young children combine to make this book a potential hit. The illustrations, painted by the author's 22-year-old daughter, are enchanting. Like the text, the pictures combine abstract and concrete in a subtle yet powerful way. The colors are a combination of pastels and deep, rich hues.

The rhyme scheme is simple, easy for children to repeat and learn by heart. The bold letters are helpful for the learning-how-to-read stage.

TUTI KELEV PIRSOMOT ("Advertisement Dog"), by Roni Ganor. Illustrated by Noam Nadav. Hakibutz Hamenhad Publishing House, Ltd. 1997. 60 pages. Price: NIS 35.90. Target age: 7-10.

Ro'i is an only child. His father spends much of the year researching whales at the North Pole. His mother, a computer-programmer, requires silence in the house at all times due to her heavy workload.

Ro'i is disappointed in his summer vacation. He'd had high expectations of something exciting happening.



A different kind of shaggy dog story.

"zoom zoom" and so on. His last encounter is with a man, who calls out to the boy: "Hey, there's nothing at all in your hands." The boy reaches home cradling his "nothing."

The young reader - or listener - accompanies the hero on his quest for different answers from different perspectives.

The fact that it is a human adult who declares that the boy is holding "nothing" in his hands is telling, as is the boy's response. While many adults tend to dismiss children's imagination, children do have their own perception of reality. The little boy may have been told by the adult that he's holding "nothing," but he is no less determined to take "it" home than he was when told it was a "zoom zoom" or a "kwa kwa."

Not only is the child not flustered by the adult's unimaginative statement, he makes the adult appear to be the one who has missed the point. And, of course, we adults all too often do miss the point where children are concerned. Several elements which usually

Before leaving for the North Pole, his father warned him not to sit around doing nothing, while his mother admonished: "Find something to do with yourself!" But Ro'i finds himself sitting under the tree in his back yard feeling bored and restless, yet unable to get himself to do anything.

Then Ro'i finds a dog which, luckily and surprisingly, his mother allows him to keep. The dog is so shaggy that he resembles a mop (smartut, in Hebrew). And so the boy names him Tuti

for short. What most impresses Ro'i and his mother about the new addition to the household is the dog's good nature. Unlike Ro'i, Tuti is delighted by the small things in life. Unlike Ro'i, Tuti is never bored. When he sees an ad in the paper for a dog to appear in a TV commercial, Ro'i decides to try his luck. Tuti ends up being chosen to advertise cat food, and Ro'i and his dog become famous overnight. They even get invited to appear on a TV talk show.

Ro'i's mother is happy her son has found something to do with himself. Ro'i's father returns from the North Pole and considers taking up researching shaggy dogs instead of whales - a relief to his wife, who resents his long absences.

Most children will be able to identify with the book's description of boredom, as well as the feeling of playing second fiddle to parents' careers and marital difficulties. As in Shum Davar, here too one gets the feeling that adults have something to learn from children.

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Prince or commoner - everybody feels the pain of losing their mom

A loss without resolution, a grief without end. Sandy Banks writes about a US center that encourages children to share the sting of bereavement

She was beautiful and charming; a single mother devoted to her children; a society doyenne who worked tirelessly for charitable causes. On vacation with her boyfriend, she was killed in a car accident, a drunk driver at the wheel. But her name was not Diana, and her death provoked no media storm, spawned no international outpouring of grief.

It is mostly over now, the grand spectacle of mourning that followed the death of Princess Diana. The world has committed her memory to history and her legacy of charitable good deeds.

But her sons have been left a legacy of another sort - an equal-opportunity legacy, as it were: one shared by millions of children around the world.

They may be solitary princes, William and Harry, but they are hardly alone as motherless kids. More than 125,000 children and adolescents are left motherless in the US each year, through homicides and suicides, illnesses and accidents.

In my small circle of friends, three families I know lost mothers this summer, leaving three sets of children whose lives have been permanently altered in ways both mundane and profound.

We don't really know, for all that's been written and said, what kind of mother Diana was, what memories her boys will carry of her as they move through adolescence and beyond.

And it doesn't matter much in considering her death. What they've lost is bigger than the reality of the mummy they mourn. It's a loss without resolution, a grief without end. You don't get over losing a mother.

"It's like the idea of existing without a God," wrote a woman whose mother had died years before, in a letter to Hope Edelman, author of a book tracing the legacy of mother loss.

"You're on your own." Twice a month, Karen Lemons drives 150 kilometers from her California home to Los Angeles to talk with kids about death. She's one of the volunteers at Our House, a



Primal bond: A place in our psyches 'where mother represents comfort and security, no matter our age.'

four-year-old bereavement center that sponsors grief groups for children who've lost parents or siblings, and grown-ups whose spouses or children have died. The center exists mostly on grants and

donations, but it has no shortage of clients. Lemons leads "The Littles" - children from five to seven - once a week. Around the corner are older kids and teenagers, and in the office "living room" are the young

widows and widowers. The kids talk, draw pictures, play music - whatever helps them share the sting of being singled out by fate. Some sit quietly night after night; others lash out in anger and pain.

It helps, Lemons knows, to be with other children who do not pity or shrink from you, as if parental death is contagious. "I wish William and Harry could have this," she says. "I wish I could have had this." Her father - who like Prince Charles was divorced from his children's mother when she died - did all he could, she says.

He moved back home and took charge of his brood. He found a place where they could get therapy and kept their mother's memory alive.

But still, she says, recovery is a long, tough road. "People think you get over your grief, but you don't," she says. "Not when it's your mom... No one can replace her. And it leaves you in shock and pain that can last your entire life."

It is a primal bond, the mother-child connection; so profound that "we equate its severing with a child's emotional death," writes Edelman in her book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*. There's a place in our psyches "where mother represents comfort and security, no matter our age." Even children taken away from their mothers because of abuse call out for them when they are sick or hurt or scared, she writes.

But I know all this. Because I remember when I realized the magnitude of the loss I faced, as I prepared for my own mother to die.

I was 19, home from college to tend her. She was bedridden from cancer, terminally ill. I was making her tea. I spilled the hot water on my hand, called out for "Mommy" and ran into her room.

I climbed up onto her bed, crying from the pain, and held my hand out for her to see. She wrapped her arms around me and took my hand between hers. She leaned forward and blew on it, like she did when I was little, after she'd put burn medicine on my childhood wounds.

Then she kissed it, and kissed my cheek, and murmured to me to stop crying, that it would be all right.

And at that moment the pain was eclipsed by the realization that this was the last time I would sit on my mother's lap. That for the rest of my life, there would be no one to kiss the hurt away, no one with the power to stop the pain of a second-degree burn by blowing on it.

(Los Angeles Times)

PARENTING

By RUTH MASON

Children have to feel lonely, sad, disappointed, frustrated, bored and angry, in order to develop positive qualities," according to child psychologist Wendy Mogel.

"If you intervene every time your children are unhappy and try to micro-manage their feelings, you rob them of the opportunity to see that feelings come and go and that they can do something about them," explains Mogel, who runs workshops in Jewish parenting.

"Children do not develop character and a sense of morals without suffering," continues Mogel. "That's what 'Spare the rod and spoil the child' means."

Like most modern psychologists, Mogel - doesn't believe parents should hit their children. She also believes that there are no bad chil-

dren. In a hand-out for participants in her parenting workshop called "Five Practices for Effective Jewish Parents," Mogel says Judaism teaches us to worship God with our aggressive and our good impulses.

"A midrash about the creation story says that the Bible specifically includes the *yetzer hara* (aggressive or evil inclination) in 'And God saw all that He had done, and it was very good.' But why is the *yetzer hara* very good?"

The Talmud teaches that without the evil inclination, people would not build homes, get married, have children, or engage in business. Solomon said that all labor and skillful enterprise comes from men's envy of each other.

"Each child has an individual temperament and nature and a unique path to serving God. When we recognize the direction in which a child is led by his *yetzer hara*, we can creatively redefine bad behavior as misdirected good potential. Then we can help a child to *teshuva* - not in the usual sense of "repentance" or apology for wrongs - but in the true definition of the word, "return."

"Say your son is uncooperative in school, talks back at home and can't sit still except in front of the television or computer screen. We can label this child 'undersocialized' or 'hyperactive,' or we can redefine his behavior. From the perspective of *teshuva*, he is energetic and strong-willed, two potentially positive personality traits. Rather than despairing about his future, we can see him as a potential leader. To help guide him to do *teshuva*, we'll need to change his environment somehow, with tall trees to climb and a hammer and nails. There should be

calm, predictable, immediate and logical consequences for misbehavior. He should be given real responsibility, parent-sanctioned opportunities for risk and excitement, and more time with Dad.

"Some people might call your shy daughter introverted, psychosomatic and a worrywart. We can redefine her behavior and nature as careful, sensitive, introspective and aware of detail. For her to do *teshuva*, she needs help in turning her fretting into caring and courage. She can be given the chance to care tenderly for animals, or to express her *yetzer* energy through creative writing or

art. These opportunities can turn a negative trait into a positive one.

"The Talmud teaches us that the greater the person, the greater the evil inclination. Examine yourself to see in what direction you have been turned by your own *yetzer hara*. Then look at your child's behavior problems from the perspective of *teshuva*. Think of any problem behavior as a seed which can grow into a strong and healthy plant, given the right soil, climate and care."

This is the third column on Jewish child-rearing wisdom by child psychologist Wendy Mogel.

Pennies from Heaven

Forty-eight years, our readers' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukkah time to the present when The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers.

There's always a reason for giving to kids - holidays, birthdays, achievements and even for just being a kid.

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Rush your contributions today and as the rain brings out the flowers, help us bring a smile to a child's face.

The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel

THE GOLAN A VERY DIFFERENT TWO DAYS

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit the museum at Kibbutz Tal Katzir, Mitzpe Shalom Observation Point, Kibbutz Afik for a meeting with members, Katzrin, tastings at the Golan Wineries, observe the vultures at Gamla, Tel Rachasnya wind generators, the ancient volcano of Mount Bentul, view Syrian Kuneitra, Birkat Ram, Ein Kinya, Kfar Rajar Alawim and more. A truly magnificent tour. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wildlife.

The date: Monday-Tuesday, October 27-28.

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The price: NIS 680. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second. Pick-up and drop-off along this route when possible, by prior arrangement.

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GARDENER'S CORNER

Giving plants their full lease on life

By BATSHEVA MINK & DAVID BRAUNER

Swiss cheese plants (*Monstera deliciosa*) growing in the jungles of their native Guatemala hit heights of 40 m. or more. And in tropical Asia the rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*) will reach seven meters high.

So why do we see Swiss cheese and rubber plants drooping and struggling to stay alive in someone's living room - perhaps our own? How do plant lovers manage to kill off that beautiful houseplant they have just brought home from the nursery or florist, or received as a gift?

Commercial growers succeed in nurturing exotic botanicals simply by giving each individual plant the conditions it requires for optimum growth. If plants are grown in controlled surroundings with the light and temperature of their native habitat, the right amount of watering and fertilizer, the perfect soil and a regular spray program, they will thrive.

But once you get your lovely new specimen home, the light may not be right, or there may be a draft, or constant traffic from large and small feet may be knocking it about. Another thing plants can't abide are extreme temperature fluctuations, like in winter, when many of our homes are as hot in the evenings but cold during the working day.

Plants, particularly the more expensive types, will almost certainly succumb to over-watering and over-feeding, no matter how well intended. And, of course, forgetting to water and feed a growing plant will inevitably lead to disappointment.

Today there are at least 500 kinds of leafy and flowering

houseplants to choose from here. But they come to us in restricted containers, which is already unnatural and stunting. In fact, it's a wonder that so many adapt so well.

Plants, like people, need tender loving care, but nothing can live on love alone. Even though plants can't talk to us, it's amazing how they let us know when we're doing something wrong.

Generally, plants don't die suddenly; they fade away. They take on a sickly appearance. Look out for overall wilting, paleness and yellowing, and leaves turning tobacco-brown, possibly with holes and rotting.

Here are some tips to keep your favorite flora healthy and alive:

Watering
The most common cause of houseplant death is improper watering, either flooding or parching.

Surprisingly, either mistake kills for same reason.

When a plant is overwatered, the roots begin to shrink, which is the same reaction it has to underwatering. The smaller roots can't take up the surplus moisture, so the plant dies of thirst and starvation. The symptoms for both are the same - drooping yellow foliage, particularly in the younger leaves.

If a plant has been left unwatered, you can attempt to save it by placing the pot into a bowl of tepid water - not so deep that the pot will float - for 1-2 hours. Recovery using this method is not guaranteed, especially if the plant has been chronically under-watered.

Oversaturating plant soil also drives out the air, which, like water, is absolutely necessary for healthy roots. Many people put saucers under pots, and let the pots stand in water too long, thus soak-

ing the soil and cutting off air. Plants should not be watered every day. Water only when the soil is on the dry side, but not dried out. Check the extent of dryness by poking the soil with your finger.

Feeding
Overfeeding burns roots, and is literally killing with kindness. To stay on the safe side, use only half the recommended amount. Feed only actively growing plants, and give your maternal instincts a complete rest in winter. Liquid seaweed is excellent food, and may also be sprayed on the leaves.

Light
Too much or too little light can be deadly. In general, filter the harsh summer sun through curtains or blinds. In winter, plants can be exposed to unfiltered light. Ask your nursery how much light is right when you buy a plant.

Cleaning
Plants, as we all know, absorb life-giving light through their leaves, but a layer of dust and grime on the foliage acts like a cataract, cutting out over 50% of the light. Spray-clean or sponge-wipe the leaves regularly with clean water, especially in winter, when the light is low.

Humidity
Many plants are not happy in dry air. Excessively dry conditions will cause Swiss cheese plants, for example, to lose the slits in their leaves.

The simplest way to introduce moisture into the air around the plant is to place the pot in a large dish or tray with a layer of pebbles and water underneath. The water level must not touch the bottom of the pot.

Frequent misting with fresh water is also appreciated. Use an old, well-washed window-spray bottle for perfect results.

Pots
Plastic pots are light, easy to clean and, above all, hold in soil moisture longer than clay pots, an important feature in summer.

Small plants should not be planted in large pots, because the soil that is not in contact with roots becomes soured by the introduction of harmful bacteria. Signs of pot-bound plants are slow growth, water running straight through the pot, and roots growing through the drainage holes. Repot plants in a pot only one size larger than the original.

Gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, through his e-mail: morrit@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il

Tip of the week

Here's how to save a sagging, waterlogged plant from dying: Remove it from the pot. Thoroughly wash off the soil from the roots and the pot, and let both dry on newspaper overnight.

Repot the plant in sterilized soil, and keep it misted with fresh water. Nourish the plant "intravenously" by spraying the leaves every 10 days with a dilute solution of half the recommended dose of liquid seaweed.

Do not fertilize the roots until the plant has fully reestablished itself.



What turns an eager plant-lover into an unwitting assassin? Most commonly, it's either over- or underwatering. (David Brauner)

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Out on a limb

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

The Spanish have a proverb that says "Only a fool tries to rescue a cat from a tree or a woman from love." Be that as it may, sooner or later you may find that your invertebrate curiosity, ever-prowling cat is up in a tree or on a roof, and can't get down.

Climbing up is easy for a cat, but getting down is a matter of experience. The shape of their claws makes it impossible for cats to get a good grip on anything while descending head first. They have to learn to turn around and back down while holding on.

Older cats usually have learned to do this, but young cats keep trying to go down head first. Finding that they cannot do so, they get into a panic.

Despite the proverb, you don't have to be a fool to go to the animal's rescue. But you do have to be very careful and keep your head about you.

Here is what you will need: a ladder, a large heavy towel or small blanket, and an assistant if possible. It will be much easier and safer if you have help.

Put the ladder in position and get as near to the cat as

you can while your assistant holds the ladder and perhaps the animal's regular food bowl. Not that the cat will want to eat, but it will help get its attention. Talk to the cat; put out your hand; point to the food bowl; make the usual sounds you make when calling it. In short, get the cat to come close enough for you to stroke it. Do not make any sudden moves - the animal is

already frightened out of its wits. Place the towel or blanket on the limb or



free, let it go or you will get clawed, sometimes rather badly. Once the cat is safely on the ground it may run away and hide. Don't worry and don't chase after it - this just makes it more afraid. Give it time to calm down and

incidentally, this situation highlights why declawed cats must never be allowed outside. They cannot climb, cannot escape danger, and in trying to do so often get badly injured, if not killed. When the cat is about a year old

around the animal, hold your bundle tightly, and start down the ladder. If the cat struggles free at this point, let it jump. It will, in most circumstances, be all right, especially if it is over soil and not concrete. But in any case, once it gets its paws

return home. Then feed it and stroke it. It may take a while for it to calm down. Some cats will spend the rest of the day pacing about and mauling cat complaints. It will pass. Often the cat is calm long before its rescuer has regained his or her composure. and finds itself out on a limb, it might be a good idea to let it be and not go to the rescue, but wait while it figures out how to get down by itself. It will. Some cats figure it out faster, some more slowly, but they will get the idea in the end. In the meantime, all you have to do is try not to panic.

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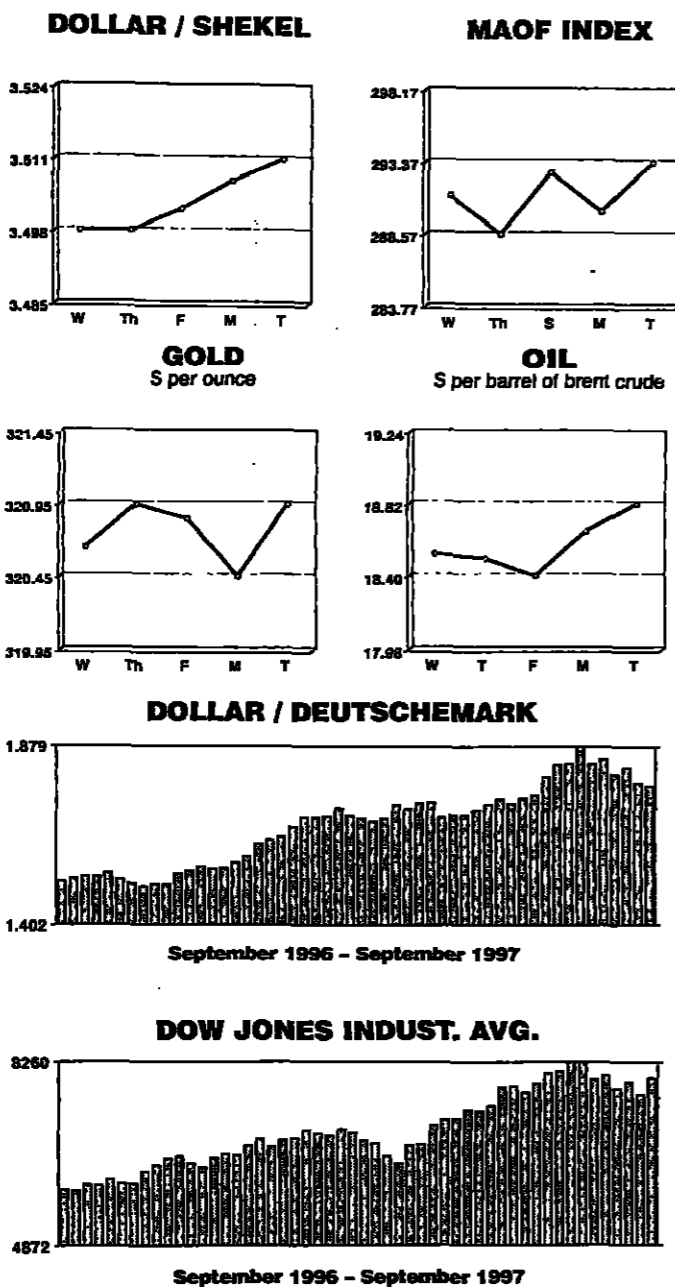
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MARKETS

in brief



Infotech exhibition opens today

Infotech, a large computer communications conference and exhibition, opens at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds today. The two-day event will present new products, including smartcards, software and hardware. Communications Minister Limor Livnat will be replaced by Yitzhak Kaul at the opening, and Clal-Israel managing director John Moshey, director of development for Silicon Graphics International, will lecture on the dramatic changes taking place in research labs and in data storage. A high-tech employment fair will take place simultaneously with the event. *Judy Siegel*

Scitex Digital Video gets new CEO

Scitex Corporation yesterday announced the appointment of a new CEO of subsidiary Scitex Digital Video, Inc. Daniel Wright, former president of Telex Corporation's audio division, will replace Randolph Hood. The digital printing division develops high-speed ink jet printers for long-run printing systems. In the first quarter of the year, the digital video division's revenues increased 25% over the same period a year ago. *Jennifer Friedlin*

MKs delay okay for Hapoalim sale

Finance Committee seeks to ensure workers' rights will not be harmed

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday failed to approve the sale of Bank Hapoalim, after MKs demanded to know the precise details of the NIS 4.8 billion sale to the consortium led by businessman Ted Arison.

The delay is intended to let committee members study the sale agreement and to ensure that the rights of the bank's employees are protected, committee members said.

Workers protested against a section of the agreement which states the new owners will protect workers' rights "to the best of their ability." Union chairman Moti Ashur, backed by MK Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), asked for these words to

be removed.

"We have a natural fear of what will happen in the future," said Ashur. "If they take unilateral action, we'll close the bank."

There was widespread agreement that MKs on the committee must be allowed to see the contract paperwork before approving the deal.

"There isn't enough material or data," said MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas). "Who exactly is the buyer? What's happening with him? But more important, there's absolutely no reference whatsoever to the 10,000 workers and their families, and as long as that's the case I won't let this pass."

Committee coalition leader Michael Kleiner (Gesher) said it is impossible to approve a deal with-

out being party to the necessary information.

"The documents are not meant for public show," argued Supervisor of Banks Zeev Abeles.

Opposition MKs expressed concern that this is the latest stage in the process of Israel's major enterprises ending up in the hands of just five or six businesspeople.

The method of sale was incorrect, charged Haim Oron (Meretz). While not questioning the composition of the consortia that bid for control of the bank, Oron said the sale should have been conducted on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rather than privately.

"There are many places in the world that have a rule that state banks are not to be sold to foreigners," said Oron.

Meir Yacobson, the director of MI Holdings, the government company responsible for selling the state-owned banks, defended the nature of the sale, pointing out that the method adopted is now the accepted norm in the US, UK, Germany, and Japan; adding that he is more than happy with the mix of domestic and foreign investors within the winning group.

"There is no reason to restrict foreigners," said Abeles. "If anything, I'd give my blessing to foreign investors in Israeli corporations, as this increases the spread of ownership and competition." Abeles said he insisted one of Hapoalim's impending new owners retire as a board member of the Maritime Bank before taking up a

role with Hapoalim.

Oron told the committee the bank should have been sold to the public through a government options scheme or by allowing the public to control the company through a board, which could be chaired by a public figure such as a judge.

"I don't know what such a public-controlling share is," said Abeles, in rejecting the proposal.

"The sale was a great success from the perspectives of the process, the winning investors, and the price," said Yacobson, adding that the sale should now be completed during the last quarter of the year.

The committee is to reconvene today to vote on the sale's approval.



New coal dock

Israel Electric Corporation managing director Rafi Peled (right) and Emmanuel Sakel, managing director of the Ashkelon-Eilat Oil Pipeline Company, shake hands yesterday after agreeing to jointly build a loading dock for the coal-driven Rutenberg power plant outside Ashkelon. The agreement includes the building and operation of the dock and storage facilities, and the purchase of tugboats. *(Yael Somolet/Israel Sun)*

'Haifa-Irbid railway would cost \$200 million'

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A train connecting Haifa and the northern Jordanian city of Irbid would cost \$200 million. Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday told a delegation of 14 British business leaders, led by Transport Minister Gavin Strang,

Strang is the first member of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's cabinet to visit Israel.

Earlier this month planners said a proposed line connecting Israeli and Jordanian Dead Sea chemical plants with Eilat would require a \$500m investment.

The British delegation has arrived here to discuss potential joint ventures and prospects for increasing British companies' participation in Israeli projects.

During the meeting, Sharon pitched water, railway infrastructure, and natural gas projects to the British delegates. He also stressed Israel's need for natural gas, telling the delegates that Israel is open to suggestions, including importing liquefied gas.

Strang and the delegates expressed interest in participating in electricity projects and exploring opportunities for Britain's private sector to provide infrastructure equipment to Israel, the ministry said.

Over the last year, bilateral trade between the countries grew 20% to \$3.5 billion.

Treasury wants foreign funds to get more tax breaks

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Finance Ministry is seeking to extend tax exemptions for foreign funds investing in Israel.

senior Treasury sources said yesterday.

Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy said he expected the new tax breaks to generate capital

investments to the tune of an annual \$1 billion.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who is at the IMF annual meeting in Hong Kong, mentioned the plan earlier this week. Treasury officials said discussions were held before Neeman left, but they were unaware that the minister had decided to publish the change.

"I'm not yet sure of the details of the minister's decision. I can tell you that until now that in general there are no tax exemptions," said one senior Treasury official.

"However, in special circumstances the minister alone may make exceptions and [former finance minister Dan] Meridor did this in one or two cases."

Foreign pension funds investing

in Israel are already exempt from taxes on investments in the local capital market. The Treasury's decision is likely to affect mainly investments in venture capital funds and private companies.

Yossi Sels, Executive Vice President of Gemini Capital Fund Management Ltd., said that American pension funds started last year to invest in Israel.

"Without the money we received from these funds and University endowments we couldn't have launched our second fund Gemini Two," he said.

Pension funds have also invested in other Israeli venture capital funds such as Polaris, Karden and others.

Until now pension funds were allowed to invest in "young" com-

panies based on their revenues invested in R&D. If the new permit will widen the scope of investment it will allow companies to raise mezzanine finances. It may also allow young Israeli companies who rushed in the past to raise money through initial public offering in Nasdaq, to raise money and go public at a much later stage.

The new regulations are highly discriminatory against Israeli pension funds, asserted Avraham Shochat, a former finance minister from the Labor Party.

"There is no reason in the world why Israeli pension funds, when investing, should have to pay tax, while a pension fund from Ohio or Miami is exempt from tax," Shochat said.

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Coca-Cola seeks 40% of region's market share

DUBAI (Reuters) — US soft drinks giant Coca-Cola Co., long shunned in the Arab world for doing business with Israel, is targeting a leading share in the Arab market within three years, a senior official said.

Coca-Cola Middle East division president Sandy Allen said in an interview with an in-house magazine obtained by Reuters yesterday that the company's immediate task was to capture 40 percent of the Middle East business.

"We have to attain critical mass in our key markets. In my book that means over 40% of market share," the magazine, *Newsline*, quoted Allen as saying.

"I would aim for us to have overall market leadership throughout Northwest Africa, the Near East and the Gulf within three years," he said.

He said the company was focusing on reinforcing its infrastructure and sharpening its competitiveness.

PepsiCo built up a dominant share of the Middle East soft drink business over the past quarter century after Coke was placed on the Arab League's boycott list after the Six-Day War, because of Coke's business relations with Israel.

This decade the boycott has largely waned in the aftermath of the Gulf War and in the wake of the Oslo Accords.

Coca-Cola has five bottling plants in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council — two in Saudi Arabia, one in the United Arab Emirates, one in Kuwait and one in Bahrain.

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Table of various stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

LAST CHANGE

Table of Retzef Continuous Trading Shares with columns for stock name, price, and change.

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Table of various stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

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Table of various stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

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Table of Karam Small Capitalization Tase Issues with columns for stock name, price, and change.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Table of Israeli Shares in New York with columns for stock name, price, and change.

AMEX

LAST CHANGE

Table of Amex stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NASDAQ

LAST CHANGE

Table of Nasdaq stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NYSE

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Table of NYSE stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

Table of International Shares with columns for stock name, price, and change.

LAST CHANGE

Large table of international and other stock listings with columns for stock name, price, and change.

THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Swiss investments in Israeli high-tech projects were the focal point of discussions between Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (left) and Swiss Secretary of Commerce Franz Blankart when the two met in Jerusalem recently.

Nissan Limor, who, from 1983 to 1993 served as director-general of Beit Hanassi during Chaim Herzog's terms as president, has been appointed director-general of the Council for Higher Education. Since leaving Beit Hanassi, Limor managed his own private company, working as an economic consultant. He was formerly a senior accountant at the Finance Ministry and prior to that served as No. 2 man in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' professional training division. A graduate of the Hebrew University, Limor studied economics, the Middle East, political science and international relations. He also has a masters degree in business management. Limor replaces Guri Zilcha, who after seven years at the post, is leaving for the business world.

At a meeting last week with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel, Charles Goode chairman of the ANZ Banking Group and leader of a 47-member trade mission from Australia and New Zealand, pledged that the ANZ would soon open a branch in Tel Aviv. The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, one of the big four Australasian banks, is the first major international bank to open a full diversified services branch in Israel, having revived its east Jerusalem branch earlier this year. ANZ regional manager Robin Bradshaw, speaking at a seminar in Tel Aviv

last week, observed that in a sense the ANZ is one of the oldest banks operating in Israel, preceded only slightly by Bank Leumi. The ANZ's fully owned subsidiary, the former Grindlay's Bank, had itself acquired the Turkish-based Ottoman Bank whose Jerusalem branch operated from 1905 to 1967.

After 17 years as director of international advertising and public relations for Bank Hapoalim, Sharon Gefen is leaving to set up the Jewish Agency's new division of communications and marketing. The appointment becomes effective October 5.

Gad Propper, general manager of Osem International and chairman of Interbeauty, has been elected chairman of the umbrella organization of binational chambers of commerce, The Federation of Binational Chambers of Commerce incorporates 34 binational chambers and some 7,000 commercial organizations.

Martine Erev has been appointed manager of the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv. She will be directly responsible to the hotel's general manager Ya'acov Sudri. She was previously operations manager of the King David Hotel, Jerusalem and before that was the manager of the Deborah Hotel in Tel Aviv.

Nur Amer, 32, is the new general manager of the Club Hotel, Tiberias. A graduate of the Dvir Hotel School, Amer also has a BA in economics from Haifa University. He recently completed a supplementary course in hotel management at Cornell. Prior to his new appointment, he served as rooms division manager of the Club Hotel.

Weighing the credit-card incentives

By NEIL COHEN

Until I started researching this article I operated under the mistaken assumption that the credit card business in this country was run by a cozy club of banks who kept interest rates pretty much in line and, except for some perks and marketing gimmicks here and there, offered pretty much the same product.

This, compared to the US and the UK, where all kinds of non-traditional issuers (airlines, phone companies, automobile manufacturers, to name a few) have sprung up and the business has become so competitive that it has spawned a sub-industry of credit-card solicitors who cold-call people and try to entice them to shift their credit card from one issuer to another.

Apart from the business of credit cards themselves, in an era of advanced databases and aggressive telemarketing there is a huge demand for the information provided by credit card users to measure products' success and to market other products and services to the credit card holder.

Here, while the aggressive sales tactics and inducements to switch cards are largely absent, some of the banks offer very aggressive rates on outstanding balances - rates that compare favorably with the cost of running an overdraft. All the cards offer various loyalty bonuses, but the industry has some way to go to catch up with the concurrent sophis-

tication and simplicity of points accumulation and rewards schemes available in, say, the US, where such marketing tools have been refined to an art form.

I'll get down to some of the gimmicks later, but the hard numbers paint the following picture as you can see from the table. The two smallest banks, First International and United Mizrahi, offer the broadest range of credit cards, namely Visa, Isracard/Mastercard and American Express. Leumi offers Visa and Diners, IDB, Visa only, and Hapoalim, Isracard/Mastercard and Amex.

First International and UMB are also, with a couple of exceptions, the most aggressive players when it comes to interest rates. (Interestingly, they were also the most industrious in providing me with information for this column.) First International's rates are slightly lower but the two are generally in line with one another and undercut the other banks quite significantly on most types of cards.

The exceptions worthy of note are offers from Leumi and Discount to holders of Preferred Visa Gold cards. Leumi charges 9.5% per annum on their balances while Discount charges a very attractive 7%. Relevant cardholders should double-check the terms of these deals to make sure that they qualify before assuming that they do (written confirmation from the bank would be a very good idea).

The other attraction Leumi offers is instant unsecured loans on your

PERSONAL FINANCE



credit card. Leumi customers with Visa cards can borrow up to NIS 3,000 on a regular Visa card at a rate of prime (14.9% currently) plus 2%, repayable in 30 installments. Leumi customers who are Visa Gold cardholders can borrow up to NIS 20,000 at the prime rate, repayable in 48 installments. All these loans are supposedly instant, unsecured (i.e., no collateral needed), do not require guarantors and do not necessitate a visit to one's branch. UMB's incentives to new card-

holders are primarily gifts. Apart from one year's free membership available to all new customers it offers gifts like an alarm clock, a set of pens, a beach towel and so forth. First International offers more monetary-type incentives, such as free membership to students for the duration of their studies and periods of free membership ranging between one and two years depending on type of card and type of client (the bigger your deposits or investment portfolio, at the bank the longer the free membership).

The bottom line: 1. Fit the card you take to your usage. For the last year I've been paying annual charges on a particular card, when a card lower on the "status" ladder would have saved me about NIS 150 a year.

2. Don't be fooled or tempted by gimmicks. Free gifts are nice but irrelevant to your financial well-being and therefore shouldn't be anything but the most marginal factor in your decision-making.

3. If you run high balances which you don't pay off every month, thereby incurring interest charges, look for the cheapest suitable deal.

4. If you travel abroad make sure you have an international card. It doesn't cost extra.

5. If you never run a balance on your credit card, then take the card that is cheapest in other ways - longest free period and/or lowest annual charges.

6. If you run an overdraft it may well be cheaper to run a credit card balance. Compare the bank and credit card rates.

Table comparing credit card interest rates from VISA, AMEX, and ISRACARD across various banks like Hapoalim, Leumi, IDB, First Int'l, and Mizrahi.

High-priced Holy Day bonuses

By RACHEL NEIMAN

Even when times are hard, most employers find a way to give employees a holiday bonus. In June, workers committees and company procurement officials attended an exhibition organized by Ve'adim, ready to spend an estimated \$190 million on High Holy Day bonus gifts. The figure is 8% higher than last year.

The value of the average gift will be NIS 375-NIS 450, Ve'adim notes that "the gift value barrier was broken this year, and most work places will include offers to upgrade to luxury items, at a value far higher than the value of the bonus gifts." Workers are expected to thus put out an additional \$90 million to upgrade their purchases.

The luxury-items category includes not only package tour vacations, but jewelry as well.

Jacob Allouh, editor of Ve'adim, points out that even the classic holiday gift of sheets or pots are now high-fashion, like Kitan designer sheets, high-tech, like Soltam's stainless steel and glass creations; or high-class, like this year's gift of chocolate, the watch.

"Eight years ago, electronic watches were in. This time, it's luxury watches," says Allouh. "And the pots and pans come with a better guarantee than your television."

"The amounts being spent on gifts have been rising over the past five years, and we don't know if the tide is abating. The retailers are interested in participating because for them, this money is a sure thing. That's why the food and retail chains have created the gift certificates, to cover a wider ground."

Many unions and employers have opted for Super-Sol Tav Hazahav gift certificates.

SMART SHOPPING



"More and more workers committees are moving over to gift certificates, as opposed to allocating presents in the workplace," says Super-Sol marketing vice president Ya'acov Ginsburg.

"The phenomenon undoubtedly stems from the gift certificate structure, which allows them to choose among thousands of gifts to meet their personal needs," he says. "The number of store chains participating in the Tav Hazahav program has increased from year to year. When Super-Sol initiated the program, there were five chains. Today there are 26."

Not to be outdone, Visa-ICL has issued certificates, enabling

employers to give workers a 10% discount, over and above the value of the certificate, on goods at 14 leading chains, including many of the stores listed above.

"The certificates are, in essence, cash, as they have the highest coverage around the country, and allow holders true freedom of choice," Visa-ICL said.

Even traditional gift manufacturers like Kitan want to participate, industry sources say, since the certificates bring people into the store, where they often buy other things, in addition to redeeming the gift certificate.

"It's not only workers who want the gifts, but employers as well. Ve'adim research indicates that employers give out the holiday bonuses even when a factory is facing bankruptcy."

"I don't know where they dig up the money, but it's clear that it has a psychological effect on both

management and employee morale," Allouh says.

But even deeper psychological machinations are at work. According to Zvi Wilder, for many years communications adviser to several leading workers committees, about 15 years ago, committees stopped worrying about contract negotiations and started competing over who would give out the best present of the year.

"Once, workers committees dealt with the matter for maybe two months out of the year," Wilder says. "Today, the industry has escalated into a year-round business of conventions, catalogs, meetings, tender offers, and it's not just limited to Rosh Hashana and Pessah. Now there are worker committee-sponsored sales, deals and offers during the minor holidays as well: Hanukka, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance metrics including fund name, unit cost, redemption price, monthly yield, and assets.

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מוקדון האגודה

Glamorgan, King of Wales

A few thousand Welshmen voted with their feet this week and illustrated where, for many, the principality's priorities lie.

The referendum of the Welsh people on whether they wanted their own form of self government in the year 2000 was swung in the end by the extra 6,721 who put their cross in the "Yes" box among an electorate of 1,112,117.

But the real contest of the week was to be found a few miles over the Severn Bridge in England, where Glamorgan beat Somerset to win their first county cricket championship since 1969.

The affessorial Welshmen with the voting feet managed to turn the cozy little Taunton ground into a far-flung corner of Wales and as the jubilant Welsh side celebrated the victory which narrowly pipped Kent to the title, the strains of "Land Of My Fathers" could be heard rising from the masses.

Glamorgan are a proud county, unique among those contesting the county championship each year in that they are actually based outside England.

Therefore pulling on the famous sweater with the yellow daffodil emblem seems to instill much more than just professional pride in the county's players.

Of the 11 who took the field for the championship decider this week, no fewer than nine were either born or educated in Wales. Only Yorkshire among first class counties could hope to achieve such a pooling of local talent.

Even then, whereas the White Rose county's recently-discarded policy of "Yorkies only" seemed to be a hindrance, Glamorgan's natural trawl of players close to its heartland appears to be a positive benefit.

The county side acutely reflects the Welsh people, who in recent days have agonized so much over whether devolution from

Westminster would be right for them. Passionate, proud and on occasions perhaps a touch too parochial, they have often been seen as a friendly, soft touch side who lack the killer instinct to win major honors.

As their victorious captain Matthew Maynard observed: "Perhaps we needed to become a little less friendly and more focussed on winning."

LONDON CALLING

Certainly like last year, when Leicestershire won the title, the team which has performed consistently over the season has taken the top spot.

Opener Steve James secured an England A team trip this winter thanks to a haul of runs, Hugh Morris played what may well turn out to be his last season for the club as though it was his first and Darren Thomas weighed in with over 50 wickets.

But perhaps the key factor in the championship win was the signing of Waqar Younis. Wales may have produced some fine cricketers but it needed this native of Vehari, Pakistan, to tip the balance in their favor.

Bowling with fire, intelligence and a lot of heart, Waqar took 68 wickets - many at vital stages of games - to keep the Welshmen in the hunt.

And finally Maynard, Captaining the side with intelligence and purpose, he joins James Whitaker of Leicestershire and Dermot Reeve and Tim Munton of Warwickshire as rejects from the England side who have gone on to lead championship winning sides in the past four seasons.

Given the talent which has passed through their sides since 1969, the long-suffering Welsh supporters may have had to wait too long for another championship trophy to leave England. But now they have done it again don't bank on it being another 28 years before the valleys reverberate with more victory anthems.



Getting Ready

The US's top-ranked Tiger Woods (l) chats with Europe's Bernhard Langer at the practice grounds at Valderrama golf club in preparation for the Ryder Cup which begins Friday.

(Reuters)

Forest players urged to sue Anderlecht

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Convinced they were cheated out of a place in the 1984 UEFA Cup final by a bribed referee, former Nottingham Forest stars said yesterday they may sue the club that beat them, Belgium's Anderlecht.

A day after UEFA banned Anderlecht from the next European competition it qualifies for, the Forest players were urged to take legal action against the Belgian club.

UEFA imposed the sanction after former Anderlecht chairman Constant Vanden Stock confessed earlier this month he paid \$26,000 as "a loan" to Spanish referee Guruceta Murco, who took charge of the 1984 UEFA Cup semifinal game in Brussels.

Vanden Stock denied he tried to influence the game, which Anderlecht, helped by a controversial penalty and a disallowed

Forest goal, won 3-0 to reach the final 3-2 on aggregate.

Anderlecht was beaten in the final by another English club, Tottenham.

"The club believes Anderlecht undermined the whole moral and ethical base of football," said Forest's public relations officer and former captain, Larry Lloyd.

"Nottingham Forest are of the firm opinion that UEFA have not gone far enough in their punishment of Anderlecht."

"Most of the players who played in that game have joined forces with the club in agreeing to consider taking further action. Nottingham Forest and the players involved will be guided by legal advice from Brussels."

UEFA president Lennart Johansson defended the punishment, saying it was "morally and ethically correct."

South Africa to play Austria, Denmark

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa are to play friendlies against Austria and Denmark next year ahead of their first appearance in the World Cup finals, officials said yesterday.

South Africa have accepted invitations to play Austria in Vienna on May 31 and Denmark

in Copenhagen on June 3.

The country last week invited England to travel to Johannesburg to play another friendly in May as part of their preparations for the finals.

The announcement brings to 11 the number of games South Africa will play ahead of the tournament in France.

English transfer system faces shake-up

LONDON (Reuters) — The Premier League plans to introduce a new transfer system in July which could make instant millionaires of its top players but the scheme faces opposition from smaller soccer clubs.

Under the new system, which promotes "player power" in the aftermath of the Bosman ruling, a player over 24 who reached the end of his contract would be able to move clubs without a transfer fee.

These players would, however, expect to attract a sizable signing-on fee and negotiate huge salaries.

Mike Lee, spokesman for the Premier League, said yesterday it wanted this new system to start from July 1, 1998, during the close season. It has the support of the players' "trade union," the Professional Footballers' Association.

But he said agreement had not been reached with the Football League, representing the interests of clubs in lower divisions.

"They understand the need for reform but they are seeking a transitional period," Lee said.

He said the new system would not affect the in-contract system from which most clubs in the lower leagues derive their transfer income.

By creating a level playing field with the conditions attached to overseas players, it would increase the incentive to buy British, Lee said.

Under the new system, players aged up to 21 will gain development and training contracts with one day a week reserved for studying towards vocational qualifications.

If, at 21, the player is offered a new contract but decides to leave, the original club should receive compensation from his new club. From 21 to 24, any selling club relinquishing a player could claim compensation, the level of which would be established by a panel.

New ICC boss wants quadrennial world c'ship

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australian Malcolm Gray, the next International Cricket Council president, said yesterday he wants to introduce a quadrennial Test championship in the new millennium.

Gray was appointed to replace India's Jagmohan Dalmiya as the ICC chief in 2000.

"It's too early to say exactly how it'll work, but it will be a separate competition from the traditional test series."

"It's a matter of all the countries getting together and working out their programming so we can find time to play it."

Gray, 57, will serve as vice-president from June 1999 before replacing Dalmiya as president a year later for a three-year term.

He was appointed to the role by the Australian Cricket Board under the ICC's new rotation system in which each of the nine Test-playing nations takes turns in choosing the president.

The system was introduced last March after the vote between Gray and Dalmiya for the current presidency ended in deadlock.

Gray, who will become the first Australian to head the game's ruling body, said while he believed cricket was currently in a healthy state, administrators needed to make changes to guarantee the sport's long-term success.

"The biggest challenge that faces us is how we can manage the sport's commercial interests with the way we want the game to be played," he said. "This is something that is happening in sports around the world. In our case, we have to find a balance between the commercial appeal of one-day cricket with the traditions of Test cricket."

"One day cricket has been good in that it has brought in lots of new fans, but in the last five to 10 years it's got to the stage where the majority think we're playing too much one-day cricket."

Gray said his plans to develop the game would include increasing the number of countries allowed to play Test cricket. At present only Australia, England, West Indies, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zimbabwe and New Zealand have Test match status.

Calendars

Chanan Mazal Judaic Art Calendar 1997-98
Calligrapher Chanan Mazal produces an exceptional calendar every year. Each page is a masterpiece of calligraphy with gold leaf embellishing the new paintings interlaced with Jewish symbols reinterpreted in splendid designs.
Size: 28 cm x 34.5 cm (11 1/2" x 13 1/2")
JP Price NIS 60

Illuminations
With illustrations from The British Library Sixteen months of glorious illuminated manuscripts. 12 plates of biblical scenes from the golden Haggadah (c. 1300) from the British Library. September 1997 through December 1998, with large spaces for appointments, all Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times and Jewish dates.
Size: 30.5 cm x 34 cm (12" x 13 1/2")
JP Price NIS 52

5 separate calendars NIS 39 EACH
— Splendor of the Holy Land
— David Roberts
— Skyviews of Israel
— Israel 1997-98
— Jerusalem 1997-98
Fifteen months from October 1997 through December 1998 with large spaces for appointments, life and match favorite lithographs by David Roberts, stunning aerial views of Israel and a new, artistically designed photography calendar, "Skyviews of Israel". Popular favorites "Israel" and "Jerusalem" calendars return with dramatic, colorful scenic photographs.
Size: 32.5 cm x 25.5 cm (12 3/4" x 10")
JP Price NIS 39 each

Jerusalem Temple Calendar 1995-2000
This 5-year calendar combines past, present and future with imagination, antiquities and reconstruction of vessels, in paintings, photographs and drawings. 12 months.
Size: 32.5 cm x 34.5 cm (12 3/4" x 13 1/2")
JP Price NIS 39

Israel - The Lights Within
Fascinating photographs of various sites in Jerusalem, Sefed and throughout Israel, by Jody Segal, with appointments spaces, candle-lighting times and holidays.
Size: 28.5 cm x 24 cm (11 1/4" x 9 1/2")
JP Price NIS 39

Jewish Calendar 1998
with illustrations from the collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague. Stunning photographs of museum pieces from Prague illustrate 16 months from September 1997 through December 1998, with large write-in spaces, all national and Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times, list of Jewish holidays through 2000, including four wallet calendars.
Size: 33 cm x 25.5 cm (13" x 10")
JP Price NIS 48

Views of Jerusalem Wild Flowers of Israel
Our "personal" favorites - big spaces to write appointments, 16 months, one photograph per page. One for you and one for a gift.
Size: 27 cm x 21 cm (10 5/8" x 8 1/4")
JP Price NIS 32 each

3 separate calendars NIS 21 EACH
— Bible Stories
— Nachum Gutman
— Claudia
Mini calendars with frameable paintings and appointment spaces, weekly Torah portions, holidays in Hebrew and English. Choose old favorites from bright East Israel paintings by Gutman or Olga Zaslav's decorative Bible Stories illustrations or this year's new, innovative calendar with historical illustrations by Claudia.
Size: 16 cm x 16 cm (6 3/8" x 6 3/8")
JP Price NIS 21 each

Jewish Engagement Calendar 1998
Popular and useful spiral bound desk calendar, one week per page, illustrated with 26 magnificent full-color photographs from the collection of The Israel Museum. 15 months from October 1997 through December 1998, with large spaces for appointments. Includes all Jewish and North American holidays, weekly candle-lighting times, holiday chart through 2002, weekly Torah readings.
Size: 16 cm x 25 cm (6 1/4" x 9")
JP Price NIS 48

Fantasy of Jewish Festivals
Display calendar, illustrated in charming naive style by Herta Seelig, well-known "primitive" painter. Eleven paintings, one per page, embellished with gold, may be framed. Includes pages of explanations about the holidays in Spanish/English/Hebrew.
Size: 24.5 cm x 33.5 cm (9 3/4" x 13 1/4")
JP Price NIS 49

Beautiful Hebrew Manuscripts
Three display calendars in the postcard of a painting style inspired Sefed artist Ben Avram. Photographs of Israeli artists and colorful Hebrew manuscript pages in this triple selection. Each is a masterpiece.
JP Price NIS 49

Israeli Artists Calendar
An old favorite, the Israeli artist's wall calendar, never fresher look this year, with reproductions of contemporary and classic Israeli works of art.
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JP Price NIS 39

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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Salvador Mas-Condé leads the Israel Chamber Orchestra in Mozart's Great Mass (K.427) with the Prague Chamber Choir and soloists Marina Levit, Marcus Brutscher, and Hubert Claessens.



David D'Or performs the world premiere of 'Children of God' with the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra.

THEATER

The Jerusalem Khan Theater production of Jean Anouilh's Antigone opens tonight. It stars Naomi Fromovich in the title role and Doron Tavori as Creon, king of Thebes.

TELEVISION

Continuing the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of India's independence, Star Plus is screening one of the all-time great drama series, The Jewel in the Crown.

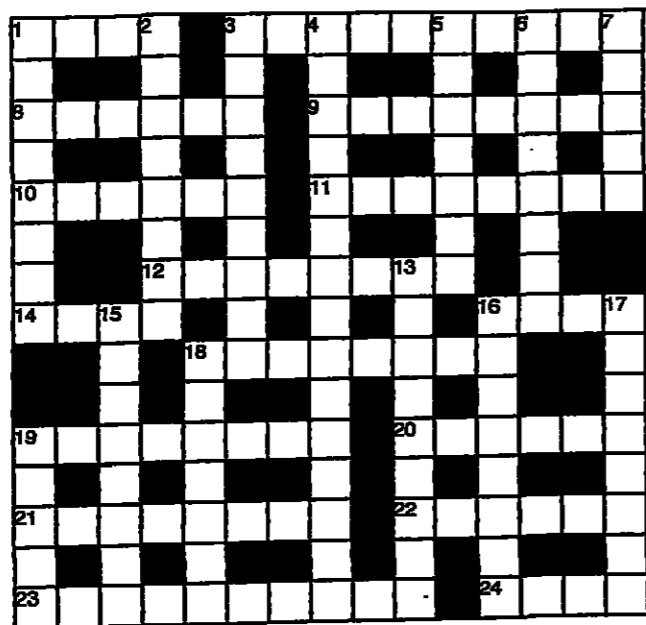
FILM

*** TREES LOUNGE - Most often typecast as a fink, a loser, or worse, Steve Buscemi makes no attempt in this film, his writing/directing/starring debut, to buff or alter his image.

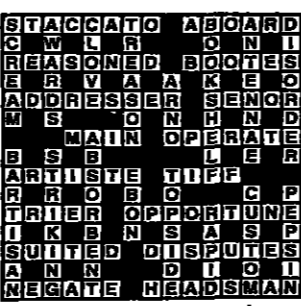


CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 City barely filled? (4)
3 In the servants' quarters at one end of the flight (10)
8 Tea goes over the ferryman (6)
9 Material, it may be felt (8)
10 Pass as Pale possibly could? (6)
11 One of a number put in the path of runners (8)
12 Status lost by one who was sacked (8)
14 About to turn in with mechanical repetition (4)
16 Man getting record assistance (4)
18 Try stage directions in plan of action (8)
19 Enthusiast sat back in advance initially of the musical composition (8)

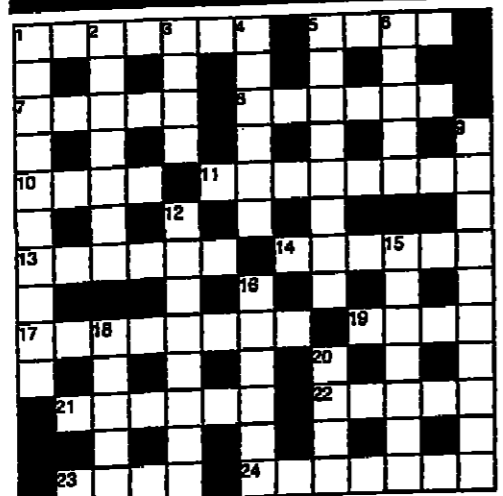


SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Saddlers, 7 Walls, 8 Edgewise, 9 Ala, 10 Ring, 11 Antler, 12 Fiddle, 14 Charge, 17 Avenue, 18 Flaw, 20 Eat, 22 Agreement, 23 Otter, 24 Idleness.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
1 Dawdles (7)
5 Prosperity (4)
7 IOW resort (5)
8 Room for movement (6)
10 Dried up (4)
11 Frustrated (8)
13 Up to now (2,4)
14 Setting agent (6)
17 Large shop (8)
19 Sparkling wine (4)
21 Flag (6)
22 Pepper (5)
23 Block (4)
24 Drunk (3-4)

TV

CHANNEL 1
8:30 News flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

JORDAN TV
13:00 Holy Koran
13:10 Cartoons
14:00 Global Gardener

CHANNEL 2
6:15 Today's programs
6:30 Gargoyles
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad

CHANNEL 3
18:00 Cartoons
18:30 The Agreement
19:30 From Day to Day

CHANNEL 4
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:30 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless

CHANNEL 5
6:30 Cartoons
8:00 Nature Knows Best
8:30 Sports Garden

CHANNEL 6
6:00 Open University
6:05 UNISCIENCE

CHANNEL 7
6:00 Open University
6:05 UNISCIENCE

PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and rows 19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00. Lists TV programs and channels.

Case of Murder (ppt)
8:35 Eureka, I've Got It All - part 2 (ppt)
9:30 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

9:00 Nine to Five
9:30 The Jewel in the Crown - part 2 (ppt)
10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful

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10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Alaska 5 - The Time and the Time to Die 7:15 - To Realize a Dreaming the Opening Wave

2 wounded guards return home

The two Israeli Embassy guards shot by terrorists in Amman on Monday were flown home yesterday for continued medical treatment.

Moshe Levine and Amikam Hadar were taken on stretchers from the King Hussein Medical Center, where they spent the night after the attack, and carried onto a civilian Israeli helicopter.

"I feel very well," Levine told reporters as he was carried out.

Hadar and Levine were flown to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer in a helicopter provided by the Chimair company, in the first civilian Israeli flight permitted to land in Amman. The Jordanians allowed the pilot to fly a special low-level route in order to shorten the flight.

King Hussein visited the two men Monday night and said the attack was "regrettable and disgraceful. It is not part of our traits nor our morals, and I am confident that we will find who is responsible for this act and who is behind it."

A security source told Reuters a number of people had been detained for questioning in the main Baqaa Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the city.

"Until now no one has been arrested... but there is valuable information available now and the search is under way," Minister of State for Information Samir Mutawae told reporters after a cabinet meeting which dealt primarily with the shooting. "The extent of information available makes the security forces confident they will arrest the perpetrators in a very short period," he added.



A nurse at the helicopter pad of Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer yesterday welcomes wounded security guard Moshe Levine home for treatment. (Yael Somech/Israel Sun)

The incident, which took place in broad daylight in a highly policed area where many foreign diplomats live, has exposed loopholes in tight security to protect Israeli diplomats since the

embassy opened following the 1994 peace treaty. The police have made a rare public appeal for any evidence which might lead to the arrest of the perpetrators and have offered an undisclosed sum of money as a

reward. Mutawae said it is too early to determine who was behind the attack, apparently contradicting earlier statements by the interior minister, who described the attack as an individual act not linked to a

wider political organization. An unknown group calling itself the "Islamic Resistance in Jordan" claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to news agencies in Beirut. (News agencies)

General strike postponed

By ARVIEH DEAN COHEN and news agencies

The Histadrut has postponed the general strike called for tomorrow until Sunday, but plans to stage nationwide labor sanctions tomorrow instead.

The decision gives Histadrut officials a chance to meet with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman who returns from the IMF Conference in Hong Kong tomorrow.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu appealed to Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz last night to open a dialogue with the government about economic policy.

The government's decision does not harm existing agreements or violate workers' rights," Netanyahu wrote Peretz.

He added that the government's economic plan was aimed at helping the disadvantaged and would add tens of thousands of jobs.

Still, the labor federation went ahead with plans to stage major sanctions today.

Arab schools, local councils and state workers will strike today, while welfare officials nationwide won't hold office hours for the public or answer phones.

In addition, 3,500 workers at the National Insurance Institute will continue sanctions for a fourth straight day.

As part of tomorrow's sanctions, government offices and local councils won't hold office hours for the public. Workers will report to their jobs but won't answer telephones.

WEATHER

Colony 18-23

Haifa 21-28

Tiberias 18-24

Abba 17-21

Samaria 18-23

Tel Aviv 21-29

Jerusalem 18-27

Beer Sheva 18-30

Dead Sea 21-34

Eilat 28-38

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, no change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	07	19	04
Berlin	09	18	03
Buenos Aires	17	25	01
Cairo	21	30	01
Chicago	10	17	03
Copenhagen	10	14	07
Frankfurt	08	14	07
Geneva	10	17	03
Helsinki	07	11	07
Hong Kong	22	28	01
Jakarta	24	31	01
London	11	18	03
Los Angeles	21	28	01
Madrid	10	18	03
Moscow	06	10	04
New York	11	18	03
Paris	10	17	03
Rome	14	21	01
Sao Paulo	17	24	01
Stockholm	07	14	04
Sydney	09	18	03
Tokyo	10	18	03
Toronto	08	15	03
Vienna	08	15	03
Zurich	09	16	03

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Average household monthly income

Year	Gross	Net	% Change*
1990	4,027	3,232	-
1991	4,778	3,895	1.3
1992	5,576	4,494	3.1
1993	6,048	4,882	-2.1
1994	7,341	5,862	6.9
1995	8,417	6,527	1.2
1996	9,254	7200	0.0

*Inflation adjusted

Average family income same as 1995

By DAVID HARRIS

The average wage-earning urban family brought home a net monthly income of NIS 7,200 in 1996, according to a survey published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. This figure, which applies to a statistical family of 3.8 persons having 1.7 incomes, shows no real change since 1995.

The average wage-earner brought home NIS 4,570 or NIS 27 per hour, respective real increases of 0.6% and 1%, the survey found.

But in the streets of Jerusalem, some "average" working people were not convinced yesterday that they are getting a better deal today than in recent years.

"It's absolutely necessary that we have two incomes," said Shosh Horesh, 34, an accountant/book-keeper and the mother of three, whose husband, Mike, is an economist. "We lose about a third of our wages even before we've brought them home. Our salaries haven't kept up with inflation and as the kids grow older there are more demands."

A single 42-year old immigrant office manager from the US said she finds it extremely difficult to live on her net monthly salary of NIS 4,000.

"I can't live on that much myself, never mind with a family," she said. "I rarely buy myself clothing and for holidays I stay with friends or my family back in America."

Gross monthly wages in families with a working householder last year averaged NIS 9,250, before deductions for income tax, National Insurance Institute payments, and

health tax. This figure is 0.1 percent lower in real terms than in 1995.

Within this category, the average net income per capita reached NIS 2,360 - just 0.3% higher than 1995.

Of gross earnings, 22.2% went for direct taxes, a similar figure to that for 1995. Within the overall earnings, 86% came from wages.

In families where the householder was unemployed, the gross income was NIS 2,930, or 2.1% lower in real terms than in 1995. Net income in such households stood at NIS 2,810, a 2.2% real decline, while net per capita income fell 2% to NIS 1,385. In this category, direct taxes totaled 4.4% of overall income.

The net standard per capita measurement used by the Central Bureau of Statistics to determine standards of living shows the working group to be 1.7 times better off than the unemployed group. These figures are similar to those in 1995.

These data are based on a survey of 4,581 wage-earning households and 2,231 where the householder was out of work. Further details of the study are to be released in the coming days.

In terms of changes needed to help Israelis, the office manager suggested that the Treasury address the problem of unaffordable housing, both for rent and sale. "Mortgages are *luzker* [negligible] and aren't even worth looking at," she said.

Horesh, meanwhile, suggested the Treasury tax the ultra-rich, who she said "don't give money back. We're middle-class and we get screwed every time," she said, referring to government plans to cut child benefit payments.

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Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 7 of clubs, and the 8 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the 8 of diamonds and king of clubs.

In the weekly Lotto drawing last night, the following numbers were chosen: 49, 36, 35, 21, 11, 9. The supplemental number was 16.

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